

# BREATHING PROBLEMS

State of New Jersey EMD Guidecards Version 8/98

<b>K e y  Q u e s t i o n s</b>	<p>Is patient alert?</p> <p>Is patient breathing normally?</p> <p>Is the patient able to speak in full sentences?</p> <p>Does the patient have to sit up to breathe?</p> <p>Is the patient experiencing any other problems right now?</p> <p>Has the patient ever had this problem before?</p> <p>What was the patient doing just prior to when he/she became short of breath?</p> <p>If sudden onset:</p> <p>    Has the patient been hospitalized recently for childbirth or a broken leg?</p> <p>If female, does the patient take birth control pills?</p> <p>Could the patient be having an allergic reaction?</p> <p>Is the patient drooling or having a hard time swallowing?</p> <p>Are they on asthma medication, or ever used them?</p> <p>Does the patient have any other medical or surgical history?</p> <p>Is the patient on oxygen?</p>
	<div> <div><b>SIMULTANEOUS ALS/BLS</b></div> <div><b>BLS DISPATCH</b></div> </div>
<b>D i s p a t c h</b>	<div> <div> <p>Unconscious/not breathing normally.</p> <p>Decreased level of consciousness.</p> <p>Any patient complaining of breathing or respiratory difficulty, examples of symptoms may include:</p> <p>    Difficulty breathing with chest pain.</p> <p>    Unable to speak in full sentences.</p> <p>    History of Asthma or respiratory problems.</p> <p>    Inhaled substance.</p> <p>    Recent childbirth/broken leg/hospitalization (within 2-3 months).</p> <p>    Drooling/difficulty swallowing.</p> <p>Tingling or numbness in extremities/around mouth, 35 or older.</p> </div> <div> <p>Stuffed nose, cold symptoms.</p> <p>Oxygen bottle empty.</p> <p>Patient assist.</p> </div> </div>

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## Pre-Arrival Instructions

Keep patient calm.  
Patient may be more comfortable sitting up.  
Tell patient not to exert him/herself.  
Gather patient medications, if possible.  
If the patient's condition changes, call me back.

### Prompts

If unconscious, go to UNCONSCIOUS/BREATHING NORMALLY AIRWAY CONTROL  
If unconscious, NOT breathing normally, go to CPR for appropriate age group.

### Short Report

Age  
Sex  
Specific location  
Chief complaint  
Pertinent related symptoms  
Medical/Surgical history, if any  
Other agencies responding  
Any dangers to responding units